

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2010

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt,

As members of the House Budget Committee, we are writing to express our strong support for \$58.5 billion for State Department Operations and International Affairs programs in fiscal year 2011. As the Committee prepares the House budget resolution for FY11, we wish to protect the modest increase in the President's International Affairs budget request, 2.8% over FY10 requested and enacted funds.

The programs supported by the International Affairs budget are critical to our national security and combat the suffering and extremism caused by poverty, disease, and a lack of economic opportunity. The International Affairs budget counters these threats by investing in 1) global health, food security, and environmental sustainability and, 2) peace and stability through economic development, education, and democracy programs.

Supporting civilian populations of the frontline states, where our brave men and women are serving today, requires sufficient investments in necessities such as healthcare, food security, infrastructure, and accountable government. In addition, we must not forget other regions of the world where the lives of millions more are threatened by similar pressures including environmental degradation through climate change, HIV/AIDS, and lack of access to clean water, education, and economic opportunity.

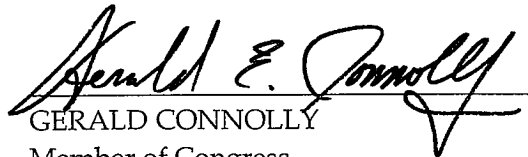
The International Affairs Budget also plays a vital role in creating American jobs and spurring economic growth and trade. Over the past 40 years, trade has tripled as a share of our national economy and today, 1 out of 5 American jobs are tied to U.S. exports. Developing countries are the fastest growing markets for America exports and currently represent nearly half of our total exports. Export promotion programs funded by the International Affairs Budget are essential to expanding U.S. trade in these emerging markets and helping American businesses remain competitive in the global market place.

We look forward to working with you on the important task of drafting a budget that is consistent with our goal of fiscal responsibility and economic recovery, and which accommodates the President's request for \$58.5 billion for the International Affairs Account.

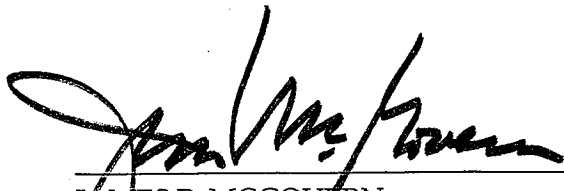
Sincerely



EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



GERALD CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



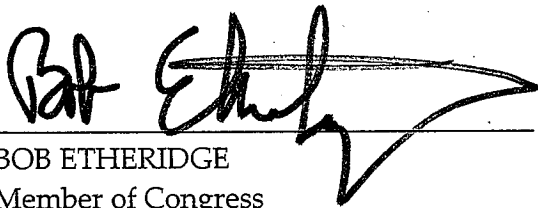
ALLYSON SCHWARTZ  
Member of Congress



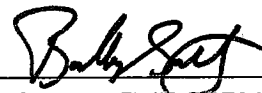
ROSA DELAURO  
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GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



BOB ETHERIDGE  
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT  
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress